

Representative
Barbara Bailey

P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

2005 Survey Responses

10th District

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
OLYMPIA WA
PERMIT NO 92



Representative Barbara Bailey Survey Responses

10th District

Dear friends,

Thank you for responding to the legislative survey that I mailed to your home in April. I received 912 responses. Also, many thanks to those of you who wrote letters or notes along with the survey. Please be assured that **I have read every one of them** and I

appreciate your communication with me on the issues important to you.

Your answers in the survey provided some important insights to the views on issues affecting the 10th District. Your top three priorities included **taxes and spending, economy and jobs, and health care**. Those are the same priorities I set out to address at the beginning of the 2005 legislative session.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I urged the majority party to set priorities in the budget and I **consistently voted against tax increases**. I also fought vigorously against the repeal of **I-601**, the voter-approved spending limit law. Unfortunately, the majority party had enough votes to approve more than \$400 million in tax increases. Majority lawmakers also eliminated the spending limit law so they could spend your money at will.

I also supported each of the **election reform proposals** that most of you listed as those you would support. I even introduced an amendment requiring proof of identification to vote. Once again, the majority party thwarted those efforts in favor of much lesser election reforms.

As the ranking member of the House Health Care Committee, **I was the prime sponsor of major health reform legislation** that sought to improve access to private health insurance by adopting cost containment measures that included mandate freezes, more coverage options for small businesses and Health Savings Accounts. Lawmakers in control of the House and Senate opted instead to seek expansion of government-run health care programs at taxpayer expense. Fortunately, their plan did not get off the ground. Unfortunately, they also killed our cost-containment bills, leaving citizens to wait for another year for meaningful health care reform.

Although **I supported medical malpractice reforms**, this legislation stalled and the Legislature decided to take no action on two medical malpractice initiatives, meaning they will be on the fall ballot.

Finally, the only place where we differed with the survey results was on the issue of **importation of drugs** from Canada. A recent story in The Washington Post confirms that **Canadian officials have already begun to take action to restrict the flow of cheaper prescription drugs to America**, largely because of the pressure they are getting from states like Washington that adopt importation legislation.

I understand the frustration of the high prices of **prescription drugs**. However, placing more pressure on Canada to be our drug store will result in the exact opposite effect from what we seek, making it even harder for individuals to obtain less expensive prescription drugs.

Again, I greatly appreciate the time you have taken out of your busy schedule to complete this survey. Please continue to communicate with my office about the issues which most interest you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bailey
State Representative
10th District



407 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7914

bailey.barbara@leg.wa.gov
<http://hrc.leg.wa.gov/members/bailey.htm>

Representative Barbara Bailey

Survey Responses • 10th District

Here is how you and your neighbors responded to the survey:

Priorities

Rank these issues according to importance.

- 22% - taxes and spending
- 19% - economy and jobs
- 12% - health care
- 10% - election reform
- 10% - education
- 8% - land use/property rights
- 8% - crime and security
- 6% - transportation
- 5% - social services



Budget and Spending

Some lawmakers want to increase government spending by raising taxes. How should we balance the state's budget?

- 66% - Set priorities and hold the line against tax increases
- 27% - A combination of spending cuts and tax increases
- 7% - Increase taxes to meet government spending needs

Should the Legislature repeal the state's voter-approved spending limit law?

- 85% - No 15% - Yes



Elections

Which proposals would you support to reform our election process?

- Require proof of citizenship identification to vote:
92% - Support
8% - Do not support
- Require all voters to re-register:
61% - Support
39% - Do not support
- Move the Primary Election date to August (currently held in September) to allow adequate time for General Election ballots to be mailed earlier:
79% - Support
21% - Do not support



Health Care

Which approach do you support to address our state's health care crisis?

- 79% - Foster competitive private health insurance by adopting cost-containment measures (mandate freeze, more coverage options for small businesses, malpractice reforms, and Health Savings Accounts)
- 21% - Expand taxpayer-subsidized government-operated health care programs

Many doctors in Washington are having trouble affording malpractice insurance. Has this issue touched you personally, for instance, through a doctor limiting services, retiring early or leaving the state? 64% -No 36% - Yes

Which of the following do you believe will best reduce or stabilize medical malpractice insurance premiums? (Check all that apply)

- 24% - Require judges to throw out "frivolous" lawsuits
- 23% - Revoke licenses of doctors with repeated malpractice monetary settlements or guilty verdicts
- 21% - Cap "pain and suffering" damages
- 17% - More closely regulate malpractice insurance companies
- 15% - Require only those who played a part in the damages to pay for the damages

Do you support importing drugs from Canada?
81% -Yes 19% - No

Olympia Office:

407 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Phone: (360) 786-7914

E-mail:

bailey.barbara@leg.wa.gov

Web site:

<http://hrc.leg.wa.gov/members/bailey.htm>